

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

SCCT-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:JSULLIVAN:PW

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY

1. SUMMARY: STANDARD REPRESENTATIVE, CHARLES BURROWS, CALLED TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ATTACK ON STANDARD'S OFFICE IN LIMON AND TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING RATIONALE FOR ATTACK. END SUMMARY.

2. STANDARD REPRESENTATIVE BURROWS CALLED DEPARTMENT OFFICER ON APRIL 30. HE SAID THAT CONVERSATIONS IN COSTA RICA WITH ACTING PRESIDENT ROSSI AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ODUBER AND MINECON-DESIGNATE SANCHEZ HAD BEEN VERY CORDIAL AT FIRST, RESULTING IN INVITATIONS TO ODUBER'S INAUGURAL FOR STANDARD'S PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT. BURROWS SAID THAT THE CONVERSATIONS HAD GONE LESS WELL LATER, APPARENTLY AFTER THE COSTA RICANS HAD HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH FIGUERES. ODUBER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION ONCE IN OFFICE, WHICH BURROWS FELT TO BE LESS ENCOURAGING THAN THE INITIAL CONVERSATIONS.

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3. BURROWS PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS OVER AN EXPLOSION IN A CAVE NEAR THE HOUSE OF STANDARD'S LIMON EMPLOYEE, GARAFALO, A CENTRAL AMERICAN WHO DEALS IN LABOR RELATIONS. A WARNING WAS ALSO TRANSMITTED THAT GARAFALO WOULD BE KILLED IN ANY FUTURE ATTEMPT. BURROWS SAID THAT THE PERPETRATOR IS

WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE A BLACK MAN FROM LIMON NAMED MARTIN WRIGHT LINDA, WHO HAD ESCAPED FROM PRISON AND HAS A "FINCA" IN LA CUEVA. BURROWS SAID THAT THE GOCR IS PROVIDING PROTECTION TO GARAFALO, BUT THAT STANDARD IS CONCERNED THAT THE GUARDIA MAKE AN EFFORT TO CAPTURE WRIGHT. BURROWS ADDED THAT STANDARD IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE ACTION MAY NOT MERELY BE THAT OF ONE INDIVIDUAL, BUT AN ORGANIZED PLOT AGAINST THE COMPANY. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID HE THOUGHT THIS UNLIKELY IN COSTA RICA BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK AND THAT WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTOOD HIS CONCERN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THIS ATTACK AND TO ENCOURAGE GOCR TO ACT VIGOROUSLY TO STEM ANY VIOLENT ACTIONS AGAINST STANDARD. RUSH

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